

JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2002

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 9-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 089780-000000US	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
				10/089396	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/AT 00/00259		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE October 2, 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED October 1, 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR GENERATING THERMAL ENERGY FROM FINE-GRAINED OILSEEDS, PREFERABLY FROM RAPESEED, AND A DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Johann KUEBEL					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 36 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 37(c)(2))</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(e)(2)).</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(e)(5)).</p> <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 36 U.S.C.</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p> <p>International Search Report, ADS</p>					

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157 Application No. 089780-000000US		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/AT 00/00259		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 089780-000000US	
10/089396					
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(A)(1)-(5)):					
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.492) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO\$1040.00					
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search report prepared by the EPO of JPO\$890.00					
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO\$740.00					
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)\$710.00					
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)(4)\$100.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(c)). <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30					
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	22 - 20 =	2	x \$18.00	\$36.00	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =		x \$84.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$926.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+	
SUBTOTAL =				\$463.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =					
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.2(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$463.00	
				Amount to be refunded: \$	
				charged: \$	
<p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>20-1430</u> in the amount of \$463.00 to cover the above fees.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>20-1430</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:				SIGNATURE <u>J. Georg Seka</u> 03/29/02	
J. Georg Seka				DATE	
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San Francisco, CA. 94111-3834				24,491	
				REGISTRATION NUMBER	

Attorney Docket No. 089780-000000US
Client Reference No. 11317/sch

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase of:
PCT/AT 00/00259

JOHANN KUEBEL

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD FOR GENERATING
THERMAL ENERGY FROM FINE-
GRAINED OILSEEDS, PREFERABLY
FROM RAPESEED, AND A DEVICE
FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111
March 29, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following amended, clean versions of the indicated claims (a marked-up version of the changes to the claims is attached to this Amendment):

9. (amended) Arrangement according to claim 7, characterized in that a controllable proportioning device (5) is provided in the feed line (3) for feeding in the oilseeds.

15. (amended) Arrangement according to claim 7, characterized in that at least one combustion air supply line (6) leads into the interior tube (11), preferably tangentially.

17. (amended) Arrangement according to claim 7, characterized in that in at least one combustion air supply line (6), a controllable blower (7) is provided.

JOHANN KUEBEL
Application No. Not yet assigned
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PATENT

REMARKS:

Claims 1-22 are pending.

Amendment is made to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims,
thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

9. (amended) Arrangement according to [Claim 7 or 8] claim 7, characterized in that a controllable proportioning device (5) is provided in the feed line (3) for feeding in the oilseeds.

15. (amended) Arrangement according to [one of Claims 7 to 14] claim 7, characterized in that at least one combustion air supply line (6) leads into the interior tube (11), preferably tangentially.

17. (amended) Arrangement according to [one of Claims 7 to 16] claim 7, characterized in that in at least one combustion air supply line (6), a controllable blower (7) is provided.

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2/PATS

**Method for generating thermal energy from fine-grained oilseeds,
preferably from rapeseed,
and a device for carrying out said method**

Description

The invention relates to a method for producing thermal energy from small-grained oilseeds, preferably from rapeseed. The invention also relates to an arrangement for the implementation of such a method.

It is already known from prior art that rapeseed oil produced by pressing the seeds can be burned and that the resulting thermal energy can be utilized. However, such a production of rapeseed oil requires a separate operation, which means that such a method is cost-intensive. Furthermore, the hulls of the seeds, which remain after pressing, must be removed separately, for example, by incinerating them in special burners.

An arrangement for producing thermal energy is known from US-A-5 249 952; it has combustion air supply lines which lead into several combustion chambers arranged in succession. One of these combustion chambers has a feed line for liquid and/or gaseous combustible substances and a feed line for solids, which can be admixed during the combustion process in this combustion chamber. To start the combustion process, it is provided with a spark plug which can ignite an oil that is being supplied. With this known arrangement, it is not possible to burn the unreduced seeds of oil crops without an additional supply of liquid and/or gaseous fuels.

Object of the present invention is to avoid the above mentioned disadvantages and to create a method and an arrangement for producing thermal energy from small-grained oilseeds, preferably from rapeseed, with which the seeds can be burned without the need of prior processing. To achieve this objective, the invention proposes a method in which the combustion space of a combustion chamber is first preheated, and in which unreduced seeds and combustion air are supplied in controlled amounts, after which the preheating ends and a pressure of at least 2 bar is maintained in the combustion space, whereby the subsequently supplied seeds of the oil crops burn explosively, and the resulting flame exits through a flame exit opening.

It has been found that after the seeds fed in first have ignited due to the temperature in the preheated combustion space, the seeds fed in subsequently are burning explosively in a chain reaction if the combustion air is delivered in controlled amounts as needed, and if the required pressure is maintained in the combustion space. It is not necessary to process the seeds before they are fed into the combustion space, which means a considerable simplification of the method

and a reduction in cost. It is sufficient only to ensure a continuously controlled supply of seeds into the combustion space, preferably individually in succession.

Preferably, the combustion space of a combustion chamber is preheated to a temperature between 500@ C and 1250@ C, for example, to a temperature of c. 1000@ C. This temperature ensures the ignition of the seeds fed into the combustion space first, and the preheating process can be ended after such ignition.

An uninterrupted chain reaction during the explosive combustion of the seeds is ensured if a pressure between 2 bar and 13 bar is maintained in the combustion chamber; the maximum values of pressure represent peak values which occur during the explosion of the seeds.

Preferably, the seeds of the oil crops fed in are forced to perform a spiral movement in at least one section of the combustion space, which prolongs their retention time in the combustion space and thus ensures the complete combustion of all the seeds fed in.

It is furthermore an advantage if the volume of the combustion space is variable, so that the pressure existing in the combustion space can be controlled as well and can be adapted to the requirements, especially in the starting phase during the preheating process.

An arrangement for implementing the method according to the invention is characterized substantially by a combustion chamber with a combustion space in which a disconnectible preheating device, such as an oil burner, is provided, leading into which are a feed line for feeding in the seeds of oil crops and at least one combustion air supply line, and which is provided with a flame exit opening, whereby devices for maintaining a pressure in the combustion space are provided. In such an arrangement, the seeds are fed in controlled amounts through the feed line into the combustion space, where they are explosively burned after initial ignition due to the temperature following preheating, while the required amount of combustion air is present and while the required pressure is maintained, whereby the resulting flame exits from the flame exit opening and delivers its heat energy.

If the seeds of oil crops are fed in through the feed line and the required combustion air is delivered through the combustion air supply line with positive pressure, a pressure drop can be prevented in the combustion space. However, to ensure that the arrangement according to the invention operates satisfactorily, it is advantageous when, according to a further embodiment of the invention, the required pressure in the combustion space is maintained by means of pressure control devices provided in the feed line for feeding in the seeds and/or in the area of the flame exit opening.

It is practical when a controllable proportioning device is provided in the feed line for feeding in the seeds of oil crops, which is not only adapting the amount of fed-in seeds to the combustion process, but can also be designed as a pressure control device.

In a preferred embodiment of the arrangement according to the invention, the combustion space consists of an interior tube and an exterior casing which surrounds said interior tube with clearance and communicates with said interior tube. This results in a design which, in spite of its compact size, ensures the required retention time of the oilseeds in the combustion space. In such an embodiment, it is an advantage if the feed line for feeding in the seeds leads into the interior tube in which the disconnectible preheating device is arranged, and if the flame exit opening is provided in the exterior casing. In that case, the oilseeds are first fed through the feed line into the interior tube, which was heated by the preheating device to a temperature at which the initial ignition takes place. Subsequently, the preheating device can be disconnected, since the temperature required for igniting the individual seeds is maintained by the combustion process. The oilseeds fed into the interior tube pass through the interior tube into the exterior casing, which communicates with said interior tube, where afterburning occurs until finally the resulting flame exits through the flame exit opening. Due to the fact that the feed line leads into the interior tube and thus penetrates the space defined by the exterior casing where afterburning occurs, the seeds are already heated in the section of the feed line which penetrates said space before the seeds are entering the interior tube, thus promoting the combustion process in the interior tube.

It has been found advantageous to provide the interior wall of the interior tube with a spiral recess, whereby the feed line preferentially leads tangentially into the interior tube. This design forces the oilseeds fed into the interior tube to perform a spiral movement, thus enlarging the path of the seeds inside the interior tube and prolonging their retention time in the interior tube. As already mentioned, it is advantageous if the volume of the combustion space is variable. For that purpose, according to the invention, a wall of the exterior casing, preferably an end wall that extends perpendicular to the axis of the interior tube, can be of adjustable design. By adjusting said wall, the volume of the combustion space is enlarged when the arrangement according to the invention is started, and the pressure control devices in the area of the flame exit opening, too, are adjusted in such a way that the low pressure required in the combustion space during the starting process is ensured. After initial ignition has occurred, the volume of the combustion space is decreased, thus ensuring the pressure required for the explosive combustion of the oilseeds.

It is practical to design one wall of the exterior casing as a plate that is movable, preferably by means of an electrical actuator. According to the invention, at least one combustion air supply line leads into the interior tube, preferably tangentially, ensuring that the amount of combustion air required for the combustion of the oilseeds is available there. The tangential delivery of the combustion air promotes the spiral movement of the seeds in the interior tube.

To ensure complete afterburning in the space enclosed by the exterior casing, another combustion air supply line for delivering secondary air can lead into this space.

It is practical to provide a controllable blower in at least one combustion air supply line, which controls the amount of combustion air needed for the explosive combustion. This blower can be designed in such a way that it serves as a pressure controller device for maintaining the required pressure in the combustion space.

To provide pressure control in the area of the flame exit opening, said flame exit opening may, for example, be designed as a Venturi nozzle, whereby it is advantageous to design the flame exit opening as a multi-stage Venturi nozzle. In that case, an afterburner device can be provided between the individual stages, where the afterburning of the unburned gases can take place. Preferably, however, in the flame exit opening, which is preferably designed as a pipe end, at least one throttle is provided with which the pressure in the combustion space can be controlled by changing the flap position.

To maintain the pressure in the combustion space, the flame exit opening may also be designed as a labyrinth.

As already mentioned, considerably high temperatures occur in the combustion space. To prevent damage caused by these temperatures, it is advantageous to construct the combustion chamber with the combustion space, in particular the interior tube and the surrounding exterior casing, from a fire resistant, preferably ceramic material. However, the combustion space may also be surrounded by a cooling jacket, which prevents overheating.

The arrangement according to the invention is described by means of examples of embodiments shown in schematic view in the following drawings, where

Fig. 1 shows a section of a first embodiment of the arrangement according to the invention;

Fig. 2 shows another embodiment of the arrangement according to the invention.

The arrangement shown in Fig. 1 consists of a combustion chamber 1 with a combustion space 2. Leading into this combustion space 2 is a feed line 3 through which seeds of small-grained oil crops are fed individually in succession from a reservoir 4 into the combustion space 2 through a controllable proportioning device 5, and a combustion air supply line 6 with a controllable blower 7. It must be ensured that after initial ignition has occurred, the pressure does not drop in combustion space 2 either through feed line 3 or through combustion air supply line 6. For that purpose, lines 3 and 6 may be provided with separate devices for maintaining the pressure in combustion space 2. However, it is advantageous to design the controllable proportioning device 5 and the controllable blower 7 in such a way that these devices also ensure that pressure is maintained in combustion space 2.

Combustion space 2 also contains a disconnectible preheating device 8 in the form of an oil burner.

When the arrangement according to the invention is started up, combustion space 2 is first of all preheated to a temperature of c. 1000° C by means of the preheating device 8, after which a predetermined amount of seeds is fed to combustion space 2 through feed line 3, and these seeds ignite due to the high temperature in combustion space 2. Subsequently, additional individual seeds, whose number can be controlled by proportioning device 5, are fed in. At the same time, an amount of combustion air required for the complete combustion of the seeds is delivered through combustion air supply line 6 and the controllable blower 7. The unreduced seeds fed in succession are ignited explosively by the already burning seeds, resulting in a chain reaction which ensures the complete combustion without residue, after which the preheating device 8 can be disconnected.

The resulting flame exits from flame exit opening 9 and can then be utilized for heating purposes. Here, too, it must be ensured that no pressure drop results in the combustion space through this flame exit opening 9. In the embodiment shown as an example, this is accomplished because the flame exit opening is designed as a Venturi nozzle. The drawing shows only a one-stage Venturi nozzle, but in some cases it would be an advantage to provide a multi-stage Venturi nozzle with afterburner devices between the individual stages, which is not only certain to prevent a pressure drop in combustion space 2, but also ensures that the energy inherent in the oilseeds is completely utilized.

Instead of designing the flame exit opening as a Venturi nozzle, it can also be designed as a labyrinth.

The overheating of combustion chamber 1 is prevented by surrounding combustion space 2 with a cooling jacket 10.

In the embodiment of the arrangement according to the invention shown in Fig. 2, combustion space 2 consists of an interior tube 11 and an exterior casing 12 which surrounds said interior tube 11 with clearance and is also designed as a tube that extends coaxially to interior tube 11. A feed line 3, through which the small-grained oilseeds are fed from a storage container (not shown) to interior tube 11, leads tangentially into said interior tube. It is practical if the air that is used as the conveyance medium also forms part of the combustion air.

Also leading tangentially into interior tube 11 is a combustion air supply line 6 through which the primary air needed for the combustion of the seeds in the interior tube is delivered. The interior wall of interior tube 11 is provided with a spiral recess 13 which forces the fed-in seeds to perform a spiral movement, thus prolonging their retention time in the interior tube.

One end of the interior tube is closed by a wall 14, in which a pipe end 15 is provided into which a preheating device 8 extends which may, for example, consist of a gas burner. The

opposite end of interior tube 11 is open, allowing the interior tube to communicate with space 16 surrounded by exterior casing 12. Leading into this space 16 is pipe end 17 which forms flame exit opening 9 and which is provided with throttles 18. Furthermore, in the area of the open end of interior tube 12, space 16 is connected to another air supply line 19 which delivers secondary air.

One wall of exterior casing 12 is formed as a movable plate 20. It is moved via a rod 21 by means of an electrical actuator (not shown). By changing the position of plate 20, the volume of space 16 and thus of the combustion chamber can be varied.

Interior tube 11 and exterior casing 12 as well as plate 20 consist of fire resistant, in particular ceramic material that is able to withstand temperatures up to 1600@ C which occur during the combustion of the seeds.

When the arrangement according to the invention, shown in Fig. 2, is started up, interior tube 11 is first of all preheated with preheating device 8 to a temperature required for the combustion of the seeds, for example to a temperature of 1000@ C. Subsequently, a certain quantity of seeds is fed into the interior tube through feed line 3. The seeds move along spiral recess 13 and are ignited by the hot wall of the interior tube. During this, plate 20 is in a position in which the volume of space 16 is small, and the throttles 18 are open.

After initial ignition of the fed in seeds has thus occurred, the preheating device can be disconnected. By changing the position of plate 20, the volume of space 16 is enlarged, and the direction of the throttles 18 is changed to closing position. The seeds successively fed through feed line 3 ignite due to the high temperature that now prevails in interior tube 11, causing a chain reaction, and these seeds burn explosively if the primary air is appropriately supplied through combustion air supply line 11. This prevents the temperature from dropping. The hot gases which occur at the open end of interior tube 11 are reversed and led through space 16 (which is surrounded by exterior casing 12 and in which, thanks to the supply of secondary air through air supply line 19, afterburning takes place) into pipe end 17, whereby the resulting flame exits from the flame exit opening 9. By appropriately controlling throttles 19, the required pressure is maintained in the combustion space. Due to the fact that a section of oilseed feed line 3 and a section of combustion air supply line 6 pass through space 16 in which a high temperature prevails, the seeds as well as the combustion air are preheated before entering interior tube 11, which means that combustion in interior tube 11 is promoted.

Claims

1. Method for producing thermal energy from small-grained oilseeds, preferably from rapeseed, characterized in that the combustion space (2) of a combustion chamber (1) is first preheated, and that unreduced seeds as well as combustion air are fed into this combustion space (2) in controlled amounts, after which preheating is discontinued and a pressure of at least 2 bar is maintained in the combustion space, whereby the seeds subsequently fed in burn explosively, and the resulting flame exits through a flame exit opening (9).

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that combustion space (2) of combustion chamber (1) is preheated to a temperature between 500@ C and 1250@ C, preferably to a temperature of about 1000@ C.

3. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that a pressure between 2 bar and 13 bar is maintained in combustion space (2) of combustion chamber (1).

4. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the seeds are fed into combustion chamber (1) individually and in succession.

5. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in at least one section of the combustion space, the fed-in oilseeds are forced to perform a spiral movement.

6. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the volume of the combustion space is variable.

7. Arrangement for implementing the method according to Claim 1, characterized by a combustion chamber (1) with a combustion space (2) in which a disconnectible preheating device (8) such as an oil burner is provided, and into which lead a feed line (3) for feeding in the oilseeds and at least one combustion air supply line (6), and which is provided with a flame exit opening (9), whereby devices for maintaining a pressure in the combustion space (2) are provided.

8. Arrangement according to Claim 7, characterized in that pressure control devices are provided in the feed line (3) for feeding in the oilseeds and/or in the area of the flame exit opening.

9. Arrangement according to Claim 7 or 8, characterized in that a controllable proportioning device (5) is provided in the feed line (3) for feeding in the oilseeds.

10. Arrangement according to Claim 7, characterized in that the combustion space (2) consists of an interior tube (11) and an exterior casing (12) surrounding said interior tube (11) with clearance and communicating with said interior tube (11).

11. Arrangement according to Claim 10, characterized in that the feed line (3) leads into the interior tube (11) in which the disconnectible preheating device (8) is arranged, and that the flame exit opening (9) is provided in the exterior casing (12).

12. Arrangement according to Claim 10, characterized in that the interior wall of interior tube (11) is provided with a spiral recess (13) and that the feed line (3) preferably leads tangentially into interior tube (11).

13. Arrangement according to Claim 10, characterized in that a wall of the exterior casing (12), preferably an end wall extending across the axis of the interior tube, is adjustable.

14. Arrangement according to Claim 13, characterized in that a wall of the exterior casing (12) is designed as a plate (20) that can be moved, preferably by means of an electrical actuator.

15. Arrangement according to one of Claims 7 to 14, characterized in that at least one combustion air supply line (6) leads into the interior tube (11), preferably tangentially.

16. Arrangement according to Claim 15, characterized in that another combustion air supply line (19), for the delivery of secondary air, leads into the space (16) surrounded by exterior casing (12).

17. Arrangement according to one of Claims 7 to 16, characterized in that in at least one combustion air supply line (6), a controllable blower (7) is provided.

18. Arrangement according to Claim 9, characterized in that the flame exit opening (9) is designed as a Venturi nozzle.

19. Arrangement according to Claim 18, characterized in that the flame exit opening (9) is designed as a multi-stage Venturi nozzle, with an afterburner device provided between the different stages.

20. Arrangement according to Claim 8, characterized in that at least one throttle (18) is provided in the flame exit opening (9) which is preferably designed as a pipe end (17).

21. Arrangement according to Claim 8, characterized in that flame exit opening (9) is designed as a labyrinth.

22. Arrangement according to Claim 7, characterized in that the combustion chamber (1) with the combustion space (2), in particular the interior tube (11) and the exterior casing (12) surrounding same, are made of a fire resistant, preferably ceramic material.

22. Arrangement according to Claim 7, characterized in that the combustion space (2) is surrounded by a cooling jacket (10).

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an arrangement for utilizing small-grained oilseeds, preferably rapeseed, without the need for prior processing of the seeds such as expressing the oil, in which a pressure of at least 2 bar is maintained in the combustion space (2) of a combustion chamber (1). In this combustion space, an oil or gas burner (8) is provided, which preheats the combustion space (2) to a temperature of at least c. 1000° C, causing the initial seeds fed into the combustion space (2) through a feed line (3) to ignite, if the required combustion air is supplied at the same time through a combustion air supply line (6). The seeds fed in subsequently through the feed line burn explosively in a chain reaction if the combustion air is supplied in controlled amounts, and if the required pressure is maintained in the combustion space. The resulting flame exits through a flame exit opening (9) and can be used for heating purposes.

Fig. 1

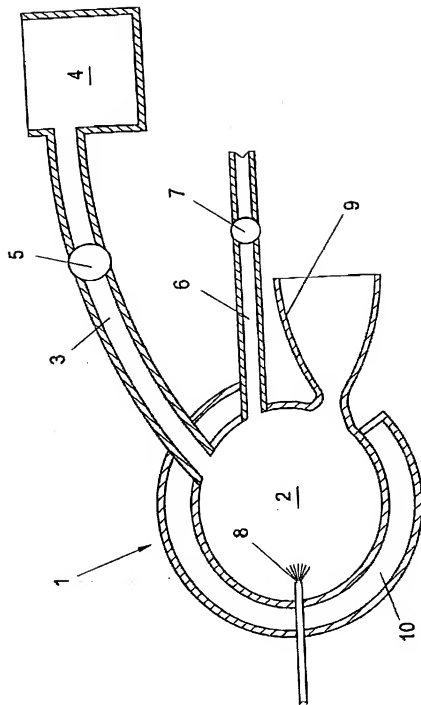
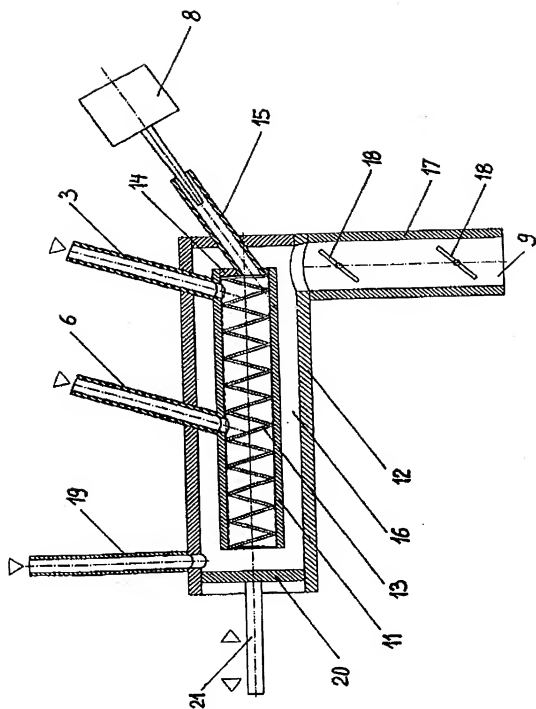


Fig. 2



**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

☐ Declaration
Submitted
With Initial
Filing

OR

☐ Declaration
Submitted after Initial
Filing (surcharge
(37 CFR 1.16(e))
required)

Attorney Docket Number

089780-000000US

First Named Inventor

Johann Kuebel

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

10/089,396

Filing Date

March 29, 2002

Art Unit

Examiner Name

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD FOR GENERATING THERMAL ENERGY FROM FINE-GRAINED OILSEEDS,
PREFERABLY FROM RAPESEED, AND A DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD**

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(Title of the Invention)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
1682/89 PCT/AT00/00259	AUSTRIA PCT	October 1, 1999 October 2, 2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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PTO/SB/61 (02-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0035

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POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Application Number	10/089,396
Filing Date	March 29, 2002
First Named Inventor	Johann Kuebel
Title	Method for generating thermal energy from fine-grained oilseeds, preferably from rapeseed, and a device for carrying out said method
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	089780-000000US

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners at Customer Number

20350

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Number Bar Code
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Name	Registration Number

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I am the:

☒ Applicant/Inventor.

☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name	Johann Kuebel
Signature	
Date	April 22, 2002

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

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SF 1331514 v1

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Johann

Given Name
(first and middle [if any])KUEBEL
*Family Name
or SurnameInventor's
Signature

Date

Kasten

Residence: City

State

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A-3072
ZIPAUSTRIA
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NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventorGiven Name
(first and middle [if any])Family Name
or SurnameInventor's
Signature

Date

Residence: City

State

Country

Citizenship

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto